

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is being provided in response to the October 4, 2006 Office Action for the above-referenced application. In this response, Applicant has cancelled Claims 180 and 184, and amended Claims 121 and 142 in order to clarify that which Applicant deems to be the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims are all supported by the originally filed application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication regarding the allowability of the subject matter of Claims 180 and 184. Page 7 of the Office Action indicates that Claims 180 and 184 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 180 depends directly from independent Claim 121 and Claim 184 depends directly from independent Claim 142. In accordance with the foregoing remarks set forth in the Office Action, Applicant has amended Claim 121 to include the allowable features of Claim 180, and amended Claim 142 to include the allowable features of Claim 184. Applicant has also cancelled Claims 180 and 184 due to the amendments to Claims 121 and 142. All other pending claims depend directly or indirectly from the amended independent Claims 121 and 142. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that pending Claims 121-166, 175-179, 181-183, and 185-188 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 121-127, 129-133, 141-148, 150-154, 162-166, 175-179, 181-183, and 185-88 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kronenberg, et al., (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0030778, hereinafter “Kronenberg”) in view of Varga (U.S. Patent No. 6,181,981, hereinafter “Varga”) is hereby traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested in view of amendments set forth herein. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 121-127, 129-133, 141-148, 150-154 and 162-166, as amended herein, are patentable over the cited references.

Applicant’s Claim 121 has been amended in accordance with remarks set forth in the Office Action to incorporate the features of dependent Claim 180 which, as indicated in the Office Action, is allowable over the cited references. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 121 is neither disclosed nor suggested by the references and is now in condition for allowance. Claims 122-127, 129-133, 141, 163, 164, 175, 177-179, and 185-186 depend from Claim 121. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing claims that depend from Claim 121 are also neither disclosed nor suggested by the references for at least the same reasons as Claim 121 and are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant’s Claim 142 has been amended in accordance with remarks set forth in the Office Action to incorporate the features of dependent Claim 184 which, as indicated in the Office Action, is also allowable over the cited references. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 142 is neither disclosed nor suggested by the references and is now in condition for allowance. Claims 143-148, 150-154, 162, 165, 166, 176, 181-183, and 187-188 depend from Claim 142. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing claims that depend from

Claim 142 are also neither disclosed nor suggested by the references for at least the same reasons as Claim 142 and are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

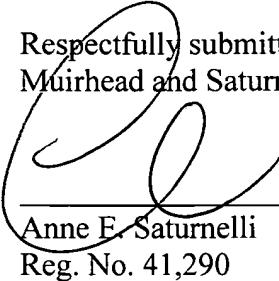
The rejection of Claims 128, 134-140, 149, and 155-161 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kronenberg and Varga and further in view of Schlossberg (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/00660034, hereinafter “Schlossberg”) is hereby traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 128, 134-40, 149, and 155-161 are patentable over the cited references.

Claims 128 and 134-140 depend from Claim 121, and Claims 149, 155-161 depend from Claim 142. As set forth above, in accordance with remarks set forth in the Office Action, Applicant’s amended independent Claims 121 and 142 are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and are now in condition for allowance. Since Claims 128, 134-140, 149, and 155-161 depend from the foregoing independent Claims 121 and 142, Claims 128, 134-140, 149, and 155-161 are also neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references for at least the same reasons. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 128, 134-140, 149, and 155-161 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Based on the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections and objections. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 508-898-8604.

Respectfully submitted,
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